The share of various duties and taxes in the current RSP of these products at Delhi are as follows:

(Rs. per lt.)

Sl. No.	Item	Petrol	Diesel
1.	Price without customs duty, excise duty and sales tax components	17.46	18.07
2.	Customs duty	2.12	2.29
3.	Excise Duty	12.07	3.15
4.	Sales Tax	6.19	2.77
5.	Retail selling price	37.84	26.28

A number of steps have been taken to contain the impact of international prices on the domestic prices of four major products *viz.*, PDS kerosene, domestic LPG, diesel and petrol.

The Government reduced excise duties on petrol, diesel and domestic LPG by 4%, 3% and 8%, respectively effective 16.6.2004. Later, effective 19.8.2004, the excise duties on petrol, diesel and PDS kerosene were further reduced by 3%, 3% and 4% respectively. Aslo, effective 19.8.2004 customs duties on petrol, diesel, PDS kerosene and domestic LPG were reduced by 5% each.

PDS kerosene and domestic LPG are subsidized products. In addition to the Government subsidy, oil PSUs have been sharing the burden by not passing the full increase in international prices on the domestic consumer prices of these products. Despite the steep increase in international prices, the selling price of PDS kerosene has not been increased since 1.4.2002 and the RSP of domestic LPG was increased by only Rs. 20/ cylinder each, effective 16.6.2004 and 5.11.2004 respectively.

Linking of petrol price to import parity

539. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to link petrol price to import parity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to review the system of carrying out a fornightly review of prices by the oil companies; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Since 1.4.2002, the public sector oil marketing companies have been reviewing the selling price of petrol on a fornightly basis in consultation with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Revision in LPG Price

540. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to reduce the cost of LPG in the light of reduction of price on petroleum products as has been done in the case of petrol; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Domestic LPG is a subsidized product. In addition to the Government subsidy, oil PSUs have been sharing the burden by not passing the full increase in international prices on to the consumer prices of domestic LPG. During the first half of 2004-05, the estimated provisional under-recovery/subsidy on domestic LPG was as follows:

Product	Government Subsidy	Oil PSUs' under-recoveries	Total Subsidy/under-recoveries
Domestic LPG (Rs./Cylinder)	22.58	133.03	135.61

The Oil marketing companies reduced the prices of petrol effective 16.11.04 taking into account the reduction in international petrol prices. However, the domestic consumer price of domestic LPG is much lower than the import parity price.

Demand and supply of LPG

†541.SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a gap in the demand and supply of LPG in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.